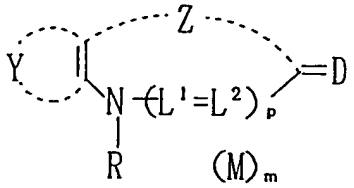
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

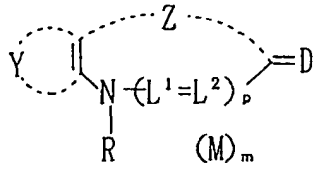
1. (currently amended): A silver halide photographic material which comprises at least one methine dye represented by the following formula (I) :



(I)

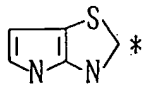
wherein Y represents a furan ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents an ~~atomic group necessary to form a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring~~oxazole ring, a thiazole ring, an imidazole ring, a 2-pyridine ring or a 4-pyridine ring, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a methine dye; L^1 and L^2 each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1 ; M represents a counter ion; and m represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

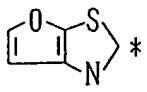
Claim 2. (original): A silver halide photographic material which comprises at least one methine dye represented by the following formula (I):

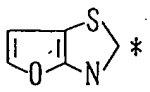


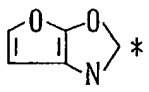
(I)

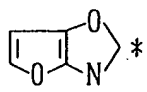
wherein Y represents an atomic group necessary to form a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents an atomic group necessary to form a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a methine dye; L^1 and L^2 each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1; M represents a counter ion; andm represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule; wherein the condensed ring containing Y and Z in the methine dye represented by formula (I) is selected from the following Y-1 to Y-26, provided that Y-1 to Y-3 and Y-6 to Y-26 may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocylic or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent:

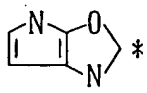
Y-1 

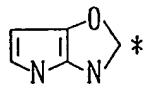
Y-2 

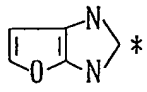
Y-3 

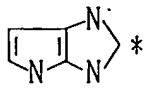
Y-6 

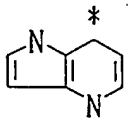
Y-7 

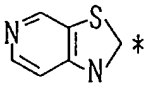
Y-8 

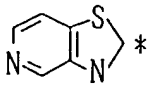
Y-9 

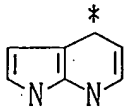
Y-10 

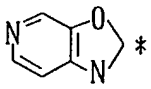
Y-11 

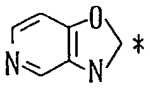
Y-12 

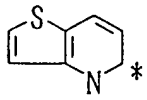
Y-13 

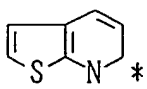
Y-14 

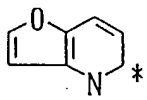
Y-15 

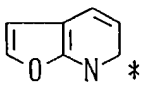
Y-16 

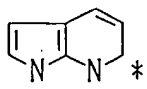
Y-17 

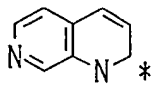
Y-18 

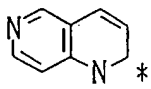
Y-19 

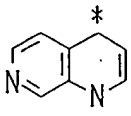
Y-20 

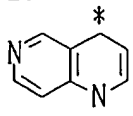
Y-21 

Y-22 

Y-23 

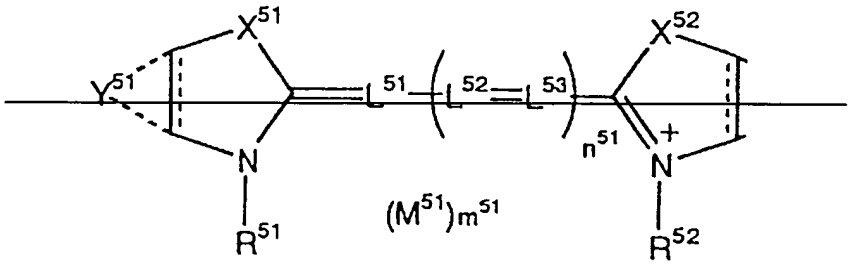
Y-24 

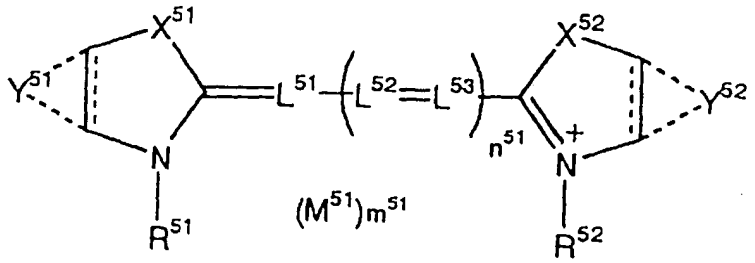
Y-25 

Y-26 

Claim 3. (canceled).

Claim 4. (currently amended): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (I) is represented by the following formula (XX):



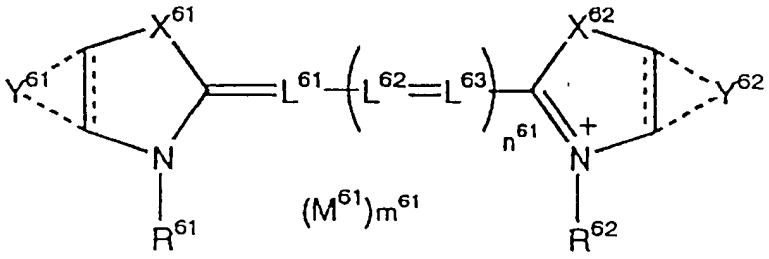


(XX)

wherein Y^{51} represents a furan ring which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{51} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; X^{51} and X^{52} each represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, a tellurium atom[[,]]or a nitrogen atom~~, or a carbon atom~~; Y^{52} represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-

membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{52} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; R^{51} and R^{52} each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; L^{51}, L^{52} and L^{53} each represents a methine group; n^{51} represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 ; M^{51} represents a counter ion; and m^{51} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 5. (previously presented): A silver halide photographic material which comprises at least one methine dye represented by the following formula (XXX):

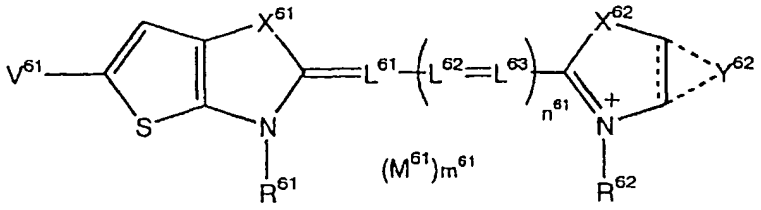


(XXX)

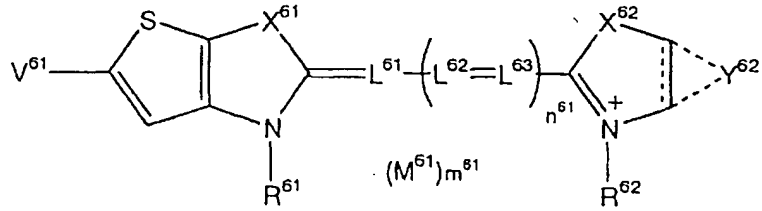
wherein Y^{61} represents a thiophene ring which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent but is substituted with at least one halogen atom, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{61} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; X^{61} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, a nitrogen atom or a carbon atom; X^{62} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, a tellurium atom, a nitrogen atom, or a carbon atom; Y^{62} represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may be

condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{62} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; R^{61} and R^{62} each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; L^{61}, L^{62} and L^{63} each represents a methine group; n^{61} represents 0 or 1; M^{61} represents a counter ion; and m^{61} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 6. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 5, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (XXX) is represented by the following formula (XXXI) or (XXXII):



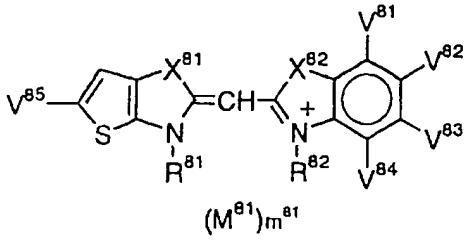
(XXXI)



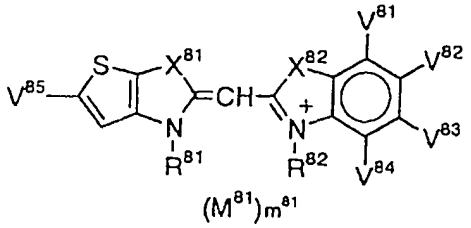
(XXXII)

wherein L^{61}, L^{62} and L^{63} each represents a methine group; V^{61} represents a halogen atom; X^{61} X^{62}, Y^{62}, R^{61}, R^{62}, L^{61}, L^{62}, L^{63}, n^{61}, M^{61} and m^{61} each has the same meaning as defined in formula (XXX) in claim 5.

Claim 7. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 6, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (XXXI) or (XXXII) is represented by the following formula (XXXIa) or (XXXIIa):



(XXXIa)

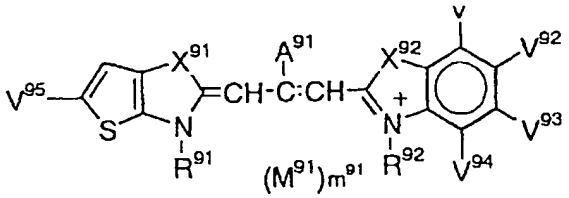


(XXXIIa)

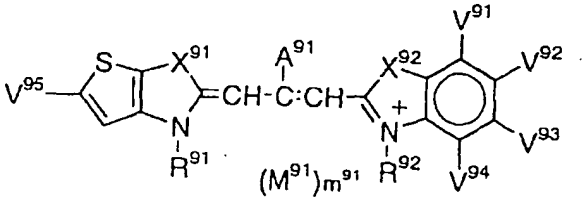
wherein V^{85} represents a halogen atom; X^{81} and X^{82} each represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; R^{81} and R^{82} each represents an alkyl group substituted with an acid radical; V^{81}, V^{82}, V^{83} and V^{84} each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; M^{81} represents a counter ion; and m^{81} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 8. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 7, wherein in the methine dye represented by formula (XXXIa) or (XXXIIa) , at least either R^{81} or R^{82} represents an alkyl group substituted with a carboxyl group or an alkanesulfonylcarbamoyl group, and the other represents an alkyl group substituted with a sulfo group.

Claim 9. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 6, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (XXXI) or (XXXII) is represented by the following formula (XXXIb) or (XXXIIb):



(XXXIb)

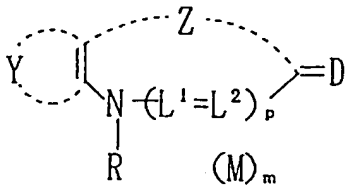


(XXXIIb)

wherein V^{95} represents a halogen atom; X^{91} and X^{92} each represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; R^{91} and R^{92} each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; A^{91} represents a methyl group, an ethyl group or a propyl group; V^{91}, V^{92} , V^{93} and V^{94} each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; M^{91} represents a counter ion; and m^{91} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 10. (withdrawn): A methine dye represented by formula (XXXIa), (XXXIIa), (XXXIb) or (XXXIIb).

Claim 11. (previously presented): A silver halide photographic material which comprises at least one methine dye represented by the following formula (I) :

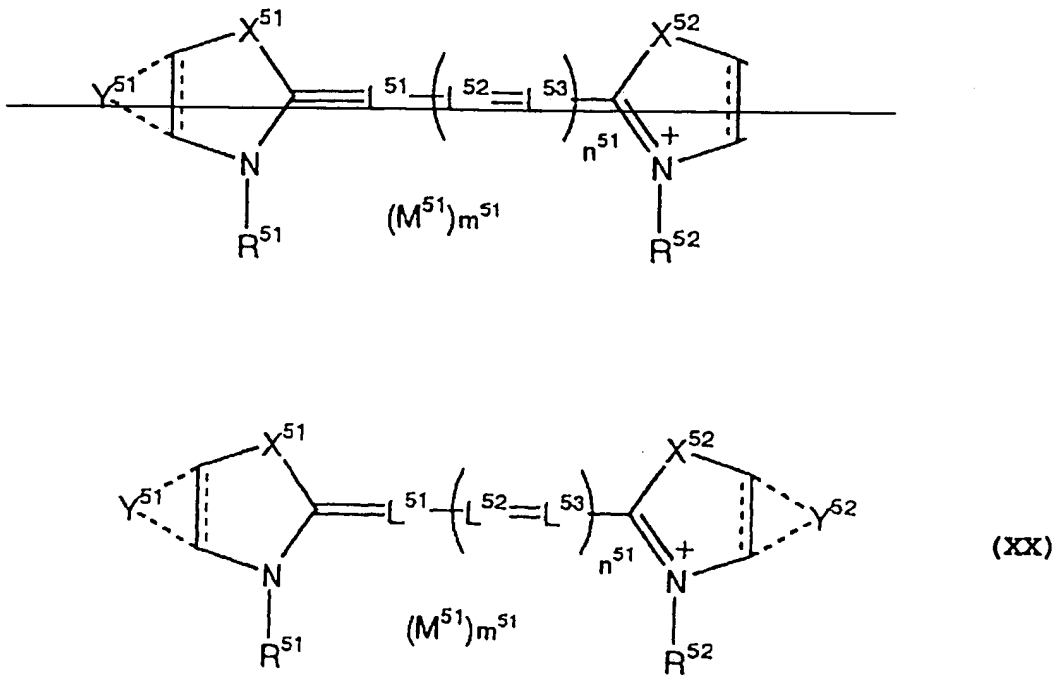


(I)

wherein Y represents a pyrrole ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents an atomic group necessary to form a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a methine dye; L^1 and L^2 each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1 ; M represents a counter ion; and m represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 12. (currently amended): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 11, wherein Z represents an oxazole ring, a selenazole ring, an imidazole ring, a 2-pyridine ring or a 4-pyridine ring.

Claim 13. (currently amended): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 11, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (I) is represented by the following formula (XX):



(XX)

wherein Y^{51} represents a pyrrole ring which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{51} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; X^{51} and X^{52} each represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, ~~a tellurium atom,~~ a nitrogen atom, or a carbon atom; Y^{52} represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y^{52} is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; R^{51} and R^{52} each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a

substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; L^{51}, L^{52} and L^{53} each represents a methine group; n^{51} represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 ; M^{51} represents a counter ion; and m^{51} represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.